

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING:CSR

APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ

EUR:GSVEST

S/S-O :TGMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USNATO

SHAPE

S E C R E T STATE 064466

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, US

SUBJECT:US-TURKISH RELATIONS

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL MET WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST MARCH 13. MEETING, HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY ESENBEL TO DISCUSS GREEK/NATO RELATIONSHIP (SEPTEL).

2. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION GREECE/NATO,NIMETZ REFERRED TO "UNFORTUNATE" FLURRY OVER LAST FEW DAYS STEMMING FROM TURKISH REACTION TO REMARKS MADE BY SECRETARY IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY MARCH 9 RELATING TO US-TURKEY DEFENSE COOPERATION.
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ERATION AGREEMENT (DCA). (TEXT IN SEPTEL). HE PROVIDED ESENBEL WITH TRANSCRIPT OF MARCH 13 DEPARTMENT OF STATE SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING (SEPTEL) AND CALLED ATTENTION PARTICULARLY TO ANSWER GIVEN TO FIRST QUESTION. NIMETZ SAID THAT WHILE NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN, DEPARTMENT WAS INVOLVED IN PROCESS OF PREPARING FOR EARLY APRIL HEARINGS BUT TYPE OF PRESS FLAP EXPERIENCED OVER LAST

WEEKEND WAS VERY UNHELPFUL. WE RECOGNIZED THAT EVERY WORD
UTTERED PUBLICLY ON SUBJECT IS SEIZED ON AND ANALYZED IN
TURKEY AND ELSEWHERE IN AREA, BUT CERTAINLY SECRETARY
IN MARCH 9 CONGRESSIONAL APPEARANCE HAD NOT ANTICIPATED
THAT HIS COMMENTS, WHICH WERE CLOSELY IN LINE WITH POSITION
ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN OVER PAST YEAR, WOULD BE GIVEN

UNFORTUNATE NEW POLICY INTERPRETATION IN TURKEY. NIMETZ
SAID THAT DEPARTMENT HAD SOUGHT MARCH 13 TO PLAY DOWN
STORY AND OFFER POSITIVE STATEMENTS ON MONTREUX SUMMIT,
ETC.

3. ESENBEL INSISTED THAT CYPRIOT AND GREEK PRESS HAD AL-
READY CLEARLY INDICATED THAT TURKISH PROPOSALS COULD NOT
POSSIBLY FORM BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION AND THEREFORE HE FELT
THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ADMINISTRATION TO EXPECT MUCH FROM
TURKISH CYPRUS EFFORT OR TO WAIT UNTIL IT UNFOLDED. HE
NOTED THAT HEARINGS HAD BEEN POSTPONED SEVERAL TIMES AND
NOW ADMINISTRATION WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER MONTREUX
AND UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENED ON CYPRUS.

4. NIMETZ RECALLED THAT HE HAD TOLD PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT
IN ANKARA LAST MONTH THAT, AS A MATTER OF POLITICAL REAL-
ITY, IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE TURKISH PROPOSALS
ON CYPRUS ON WHICH WE COULD COMMENT AT HEARINGS. MANY IN
CONGRESS WANTED TO JUSTIFY A VOTE FAVORING TURKEY ON THE
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BASIS THAT TURKEY HAD MOVED ON CYPRUS. THIS DID NOT REP-
RESENT LINKAGE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, NIMETZ SAID
WE WERE WORKING ON A CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGY. WE THOUGHT
THAT HOUSE WAS BASICALLY SYMPATHETIC TO TURKISH DCA, BUT
SENATE WAS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF PANAMA AND LESS
INTEREST AND SYMPATHY AMONG MEMBERS OF SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

5. ESENBEL SAID HE FELT "TIME FOR RHETORIC WAS OVER".
GOT EXPECTED THAT THE DCA WOULD BE APPROVED IN APRIL OR MAY
SO THAT WHEN ECEVIT CAME TO THE NATO SUMMIT, THE APPROVAL
OF BOTH LEGISLATIVE BODIES WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

6. AMBASSADOR SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO MFA MARCH 14 TEXT
OF DEPARTMENT'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING TRANSCRIPT AS WELL AS
EXCHANGE WITH ZABLOCKI. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON ABOVE NIMETZ
REMARKS TO URGE A) COMMENTS TO PRESS BE AVOIDED TO EXTENT
POSSIBLE, AND B) THAT TURKISH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS STILL
COME FORWARD AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE AND BE AS FORTH-
COMING AS POSSIBLE. (WE WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE BRIEFING
ON PROPOSALS FOR TURKISH CYPRIOTS IF THAT WOULD EASE GOT
PROBLEM.)

7. WE CAN UNDERSTAND THAT ESENBEL MAY HAVE GOTTEN IMPRESSION FROM HAMILTON THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT ANXIOUS STATE POLICY ON TURKISH DCA THIS WEEK IMMEDIATELY ON HEELS ON MONTREUX SUMMIT AND WITH NO IDEA WHAT TURKS MIGHT DO ON CYPRUS. BUT AS NOTED STATE 53855 SUBCOMMITTEE ALSO HAD PROBLEMS WITH MARCH HEARING DATE; THUS AS FAR AS WE ARE

"

CONCERNED DELAY TO EARLY APRIL WAS AT MUTUAL CONVENIENCE OF ADMINISTRATION AND SUBCOMMITTEE. VANCE

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